

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:143
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
RE-INVENTING EPF INDIA PROGRAMME
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had embarked upon a massive project to inter-link all Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Offices of the country under the scheme 'Re-inventing EPF India' to provide on-line access to all the subscribers of EPF;
- (b) if so, the status of the project alongwith the funds allocated and spent on the project since its inception, year-wise;
- (c) whether the deadline fixed for completion of the project could not be met; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the deadline fixed and the cost over-run due to delay in implementing the project?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 143 FOR 10.03.2008 BY SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA REGARDING "RE-INVENTING EPF INDIA PROGRAMME."

(a) to (d): The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation launched a project in 2001 called 'Re-Inventing EPF India' in order to provide world-class service to its stakeholders by revamping the accounting procedure, business process, etc., which would enable the claims to be settled within 2-3 days, ensure improved compliance and provide service on 'Any-time Any-where' basis.

The consultants appointed for this work delivered their report on 'Business Process Re-engineering', 'System Design Document', 'Software Requirement Specifications', etc. The application software was also delivered. On exhaustive user testing and field-testing, the application was found to be needing considerable improvements. To set right the deficiencies, the consultants asked for changes in contract and financial compensation. The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund considered the above and have given directions to explore alternate options and also to take legal opinion as regards the present situation.

The reasons for delay are the delayed submission of some milestones by the consultants as well as time taken for various approvals. M/s Siemens Information Systems Limited (SISL) were engaged as consultants for the Project for an amount of Rs.6,67,47,000/-. Apart from this, no other cost estimates were finalised. The total expenditure incurred on the project upto 31.03.2007 is about Rs. 51 crore. The expenditure on the project has been met from normal revenue expenditure budget heads and there has not been any specific allocation. As such there has not been any cost overrun. The details of year-wise expenditure are at Annexure.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 143 FOR 10.03.2008 BY SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA REGARDING "RE-INVENTING EPF INDIA PROGRAMME."

"Re-inventing EPF India" Project

Expenditure on consultants, hardware, software, networking and SSN (Year-wise break-up)

PROJECT EXPENDITURE:CONSULTANTS (SISL)

S. No.	Year	Amount (in crore)
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2	2002-03	0.13
3	2003-04	0.76
4	2004-05	0.49
5	2005-06	0.75
6	2006-07	0.64

TOTAL 2.90

PROJECT EXPENDITURE:HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, NETWORKING & SSN

S. No.	Year	Amount (in crore)
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1	2001-02	0.03
2	2002-03	0.18
3	2003-04	12.50
4	2004-05	6.97
5	2005-06	13.09
6	2006-07	15.20

TOTAL 47.97

Total expenditure: Rs. 50.87 crore